

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 6, 2011

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: STEVE SINDIONG, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5- TRANSITWAY CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

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**ISSUE:** Update on the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Transportation Commission (Commission) receive the staff update.

**DISCUSSION:** The Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study is currently being conducted by the City of Alexandria for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of implementing dedicated corridor transit service in the City in three corridors – US 1 / North-South Corridor (Corridor A), Duke Street/ Eisenhower Avenue Corridor (Corridor B), and Van Dorn/Beauregard Corridor (Corridor C). Staff and the City's consultant provided an overview of the project to the Transportation Commission at its October 6, 2010 meeting. The overall project is preliminarily anticipated to be complete by late 2011 with an accelerated schedule for Corridor C anticipated for completion by late spring 2011.

The Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study builds on the *Transportation Master Plan* recommendation for providing enhanced transit service in the three corridors. The Dedicated Transit Corridors Study involves the following for each corridor:

- Development of concepts to provide enhanced transit services
- Evaluation of different transit mode technologies (bus, enhanced bus, bus rapid transit, and streetcar)
- Evaluation of alternatives for transit operations considering median and side running configurations
- Evaluation of the tradeoffs between mixed traffic and dedicated lane facilities
- Identification of overall corridor implementation action plans to inform and guide future study and engineering efforts for each corridor
- Coordination with environmental permitting agencies to discuss the likely scope of future environmental documentation to be required based on the type of funding to be sought
- Coordination with adjacent localities and regional agencies

A High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group (CWG) was formed to study and provide citizen input on these issues. The CWG has met four times since the study began in the Summer 2010.

Work thus far has focused on the development of transitway concepts for Corridor C (Beauregard / Van Dorn Corridor) because of the high priority needs for that corridor associated with the BRAC development and the Beauregard planning process. Seven alternatives for Corridor C were presented to the CWG at its meeting in January, and since then, have been narrowed down to three alternatives for further analysis using second level screening criteria. The results of the secondary analysis were presented to the CWG at its March meeting. The three alternatives include:

- Alternative D: Bus Rapid Transit connecting to the Pentagon and Shirlington
- Alternative E: Bus Rapid Transit connecting to the Pentagon and Streetcar in Mixed Flow connecting to Beauregard Town Center
- Alternative G: Streetcar in Dedicated Lanes connecting to Columbia Pike

A preliminary preferred alternative for Corridor C is anticipated by late spring 2011. In the meantime, the consultant has begun analyzing existing conditions for Corridors A (North-South corridor) and B (Duke Street/Eisenhower corridor) and will be bringing preliminary transitway concepts for those corridors in May.

Information on the project can be found at the project webpage:  
[www.alexandriava.gov/highcapacitytransit](http://www.alexandriava.gov/highcapacitytransit)